~ 6 -

Amendments to the Abstract:

Please replace the Abstract with the following rewritten Abstract:

-- A single or multilayer sheet comprising a microvoided layer permeable to low surface tension liquids has a continuous phase comprising a polylactic-acid-based material and interconnecting microvoides, said the microvoided layer having a total absorbent capacity of at least about 14 cc/m². The invention is also directed to an a method of making a sheet material comprising such a permeable microvoided layer, which method comprises extruding a sheet comprising a layer of a polylactic-acid-based material containing inorganic particles by extrusion, and stretching the sheet biaxially to form interconnected microvoids around the inorganic particles. --